

12-50860

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24 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview With []

REFERENCES: Subject's Letter to DCI, 7 May 1956; DCI's reply, 12 May 1956.

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1. The undersigned called on [] by appointment in his office at the [] this morning to discuss his letter to the DCI in which he reported that he had heard "some strong criticism of Radio Liberation." The conversation lasted about 45 minutes.

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2. [] explained that he had been interested in Radio Liberation for some time because he knew that the DCI had a deep interest in it and also because he felt that it had a unique opportunity as a cold war weapon. He knew of the DCI's interest, he said, because the DCI had asked him especially to look into Radio Liberation's operations when he went to [] 1953 to study U.S. information programs for the Mickenlooper Senate Committee.

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3. [] said that he found Radio Liberation to be in "pretty much of a mess" at that time because it seemed, from his background of experience with RIAS, to be struggling with technical and programming problems which it was ill-equipped to solve. (In this connection, it should be noted that Radio Liberation went on the air on 1 March 1953 and, at the time in question, was naturally undergoing the birth pangs normally to be associated with an organization starting from scratch under the complex circumstances surrounding it). When he revisited Munich in 1955, [] said, he did not again visit the station, but got the impression from "talking around" that Radio Liberation still was not doing as good a job as it should be doing. He named []

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[] of whose abilities he said he had a very high opinion, as a source in these "talks." Since that time, he added, this impression had been confirmed in his mind by remarks he had heard from some people in New York and Washington.

4. He said he

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5. [] said he sensed that what Radio Liberation needed was a strong administrator capable of "knocking heads together" when the occasion required, someone of "an army officer type who could be tough when necessary" but who at the same time could win and retain the respect of the emigres with whom he had to deal. He said that if the DCI had any problems in this connection, he would be glad to help out in any way he could, "without compensation and without having any outward connection with Radio Liberation." He offered to give one day per week on week-ends, plus holidays if he could be of service in this connection.

6. The undersigned thanked [] on behalf of the DCI for his offer to be of service and assured him that he would be contacted if his assistance could be utilized. Meanwhile, he was asked, could he be more specific concerning the criticism he had reported having heard?

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7. He replied that he had heard nothing more specific than the generally expressed opinion that Radio Liberation was not doing as good a job as it should be doing. He volunteered that he had heard this from [] and "some of his boys" in [] and from "some woman" in [] New York whom he thought was an executive of the Foundation but whose name he was unable to recall. It had been about four months since he had heard these criticisms, he said, but he had just not "gotten around" to reporting them to the DCI earlier. He acknowledged that the criticism, especially that emanating from VOA sources, might have been based on natural competitive considerations. He added, however, that he had interpreted it as being aimed primarily at Radio Liberation's "house-keeping," which led him to the conclusion that it needed a good "top administrator." He said he infrequently saw people in New York and Washington who might have further information, that he would keep his ears open and that if he heard anything else, he would contact the undersigned. He was thanked for his interest but

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was given no

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was given no encouragement to conduct an inquiry on behalf of the DCI.

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8. [] mentioned in passing that he knew Messrs. [] in the Agency and inquired how they were, explaining that he had not seen them lately. The undersigned replied that they were fine as far as he knew. There was no further discussion concerning them.

9. He confided that the Admiral Canaris "memento" mentioned in his letter to the DCI is the Admiral's personal pistol, a Walther with the Admiral's signature etched on the frame. He hopes some time to show it to the DCI.

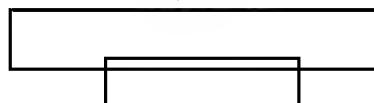
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10. [] presents a poised and affable personality on first contact. He appeared to be genuinely interested in performing a service for the DCI if he needs it, and gave no impression of job-seeking as such. The undersigned was unable, however, to reconcile the vagueness of his recital of the reported criticism of Radio Liberation with the more positive tone of his letter to the DCI.

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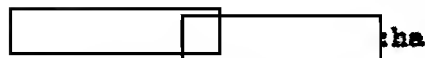


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